

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 6, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 93

Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan

February 11, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 93, as amended, Buchanan. Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of March 2014 as Drug Abuse Awareness Month in California, and encourage all citizens to participate in prevention programs and activities and to pledge to “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill.”

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, There were more deaths caused by drug overdoses
2 in 2010 than traffic accidents among people 25 to 64 years of age;
3 and
4 WHEREAS, In 2010, drug overdoses in the United States of
5 America caused 38,329 deaths and 22,134 of those deaths were
6 from prescription drugs; and
7 WHEREAS, In 2011, an estimated 22.5 million Americans 12
8 years of age or older used an illicit drug or abused a prescription
9 drug in the past month; and
10 WHEREAS, In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits
11 were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals, an increase
12 of 98.4 percent since 2004; and

1 WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs
2 health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health care
3 costs; and

4 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers
5 now exceed more deaths ~~from~~ *than* heroin and cocaine combined;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse
8 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a
9 doctor; and

10 ~~WHEREAS, Americans that participated in the Drug~~
11 ~~Enforcement Administration's (DEA) seventh National Prescription~~
12 ~~Drug Take-Back Day on October 26, 2013, turned in more than~~
13 ~~647,211 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and~~
14 ~~proper disposal at the 4,114 take-back sites that were available in~~
15 ~~all 50 states and the territories of the United States. When the~~
16 ~~results of all seven Take-Back Days are combined, the DEA and~~
17 ~~its state, local, and tribal law enforcement, and community partners~~
18 ~~have removed 3.4 million pounds of medication from circulation;~~
19 ~~and~~ *During the last seven National Prescription Drug Take Back*
20 *Days, a total of 3.4 million pounds of medication were removed*
21 *from circulation and potential diversion by the Drug Enforcement*
22 *Administration (DEA) and its state, local, and tribal law*
23 *enforcement, and community partners. The Contra Costa County*
24 *Board of Supervisors support April 26, 2014, as "National*
25 *Prescription Drug Take Back Day," as declared by the DEA, and*
26 *encourages residents to locate their collection site and safely*
27 *dispose of their accumulated unwanted and unused prescription*
28 *drugs; and*

29 *WHEREAS, The 2013 National Drug Control Study listed four*
30 *interventions to reduce prescription drug abuse, one of which was*
31 *to provide safe drug disposal by increasing return and take-back*
32 *programs. We support California acquiring a sustainably funded*
33 *and well publicized statewide medication take-back system that is*
34 *much more convenient to consumers than the current one-day*
35 *events or disposal at hazardous waste facilities; and*

36 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug
37 Abuse, the Contra Costa County Prescription Drug Abuse
38 Prevention Coalition, the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board
39 in cooperation with the Contra Costa Behavioral Health Division's
40 Alcohol and Other Drugs Services, *the Contra Costa County Youth*

1 *Health Coalition*, law enforcement, community-based
2 organizations, alcohol and other drug service providers, and civic
3 and business leaders coordinate Prescription Drug Abuse
4 Awareness Month activities in the County of Contra Costa and
5 California to engage our citizens in demonstrating their
6 commitment to prevention campaigns and education aimed at
7 raising awareness about the abuse and misuse of prescription drugs,
8 promoting prescription drug safe storing and disposal, and using
9 medications only as prescribed; and

10 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based
11 communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and
12 local governments, health care practitioners, and pharmacists in
13 the County of Contra Costa, the state, and the general public will
14 demonstrate their commitment to the prevention of prescription
15 medication abuse by participating in activities intended to highlight
16 local efforts during the month of March; and

17 WHEREAS, The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
18 and the Legislature support April 26, 2014, as National Prescription
19 Drug Take-Back Day as declared by the DEA, and ~~encourages~~
20 *encourage* residents to locate their local collection site and safely
21 dispose of their accumulated unwanted and unused prescription
22 drugs; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
24 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby declare March
25 2014, as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, and
26 encourages all citizens to *actively* participate in prevention
27 programs and activities, and to safely store and dispose of their
28 ~~medication~~ *medications* on a continual basis, and to encourage all
29 community members to pledge, “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can
30 Kill”; and be *it* further

31 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
32 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.